Archie 65TH ANNIVERSARY

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#7

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SONIC X™

DIRECT EDITION

DURING A BATTLE BETWEEN SONIC THE HEDGEHOG AND THE EVIL DR. EGGMAN ON THEIR HOME WORLD, AN EXPLOSION TRANSPORTED SONIC, HIS FRIENDS, AND DR. EGGMAN, ACROSS DIMENSIONS UNTIL THEY FOUND THEMSELVES IN STATION SQUARE ON PLANET EARTH.

STATION SQUARE IS A BUSY CITY WITH THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WORKING IN OFFICES, STORES, SCHOOLS, AND RESTAURANTS EVERY DAY.

AND THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WORK UNDERGROUND, LIKE THE ***SEWER WORKERS*** WHO HELP MAKE SURE THAT LIFE GOES ON AS IT SHOULD ABOVE.

WOW! WHAT DO YOU THINK ALL THAT STUFF IS?

DON'T LOOK AT ME. MY PhD IS IN MEDIEVAL ENGLISH LITERATURE, NOT ALIEN TECHNOLOGY.

I DON'T THINK ANYONE'S BEEN IN HERE IN YEARS.

SOMETHIN' TURNED THE POWER ON...

TAKE THIS JOB AND SHOVEL IT!

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OBVIOUSLY THIS MUST BE INVESTIGATED, BUT IT HAS TO BE DONE *WITHOUT CAUSING A PANIC*.

I'M GOING TO ASSIGN THIS MISSION TO *AGENTS TOPAZ AND ROUGE*.

I'M COUNTING ON THE TWO OF YOU TO KEEP THIS QUIET, AGENT TOPAZ.

WE WON'T LET YOU DOWN, MR. PRESIDENT.

BUT....!

MR. PRESIDENT, YOU ARE LATE FOR YOUR CABINET MEETING. WE REALLY HAVE TO GO *NOW*.

LET THEM KNOW WE'RE ON OUR WAY.

CAPTAIN WESTWOOD, I'LL EXPECT A FULL REPORT ON MY DESK BY THE END OF THE DAY.

YES, SIR!

MEET ME IN FIVE MINUTES AT THE HELIPORT. I HAVE TO PUT TOGETHER A MISSION KIT.

I'M *ALWAYS* READY TO GO.

THAT ASSIGNMENT SHOULD HAVE BEEN MINE!

I'M THE *CAPTAIN* OF THIS UNIT. AGENT TOPAZ WORKS FOR *ME!*

EVER SINCE *ROUGE THE BAT* SHOWED UP AND WAS *NAMED TOPAZ'S PARTNER*, I LOSE OUT ON ALL THE BEST ASSIGNMENTS.

IT'S NOT RIGHT!

IF *I* HAD A *TALKING ANIMAL FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION* AS *MY* PARTNER, MAYBE *I'D* GET THE *EXCITING MISSIONS.*

THAT'S IT! IF I CAN GET *SONIC THE HEDGEHOG* TO BE *MY PARTNER*, WE COULD LEAVE TOPAZ AND ROUGE IN THE DUST.

BUT HOW DO I CONVINCE HIM TO COME WORK FOR THE GUARDIAN UNITS OF THE NATIONS?

CAPTAIN, WE JUST RECEIVED THIS REPORT ABOUT AN UNIDENTIFIED

OBJECT BURIED IN THE DESERT OUTSIDE OF STATION SQUARE.

SHOULD WE ALERT THE PRESIDENT?

GIVE ME THAT!

EEP!

THIS IS *JUST WHAT I NEED* TO GET SONIC *TO WORK FOR ME!*

AGENT CHEUNG, YOU ARE TO TELL *NO ONE OF THIS REPORT.*

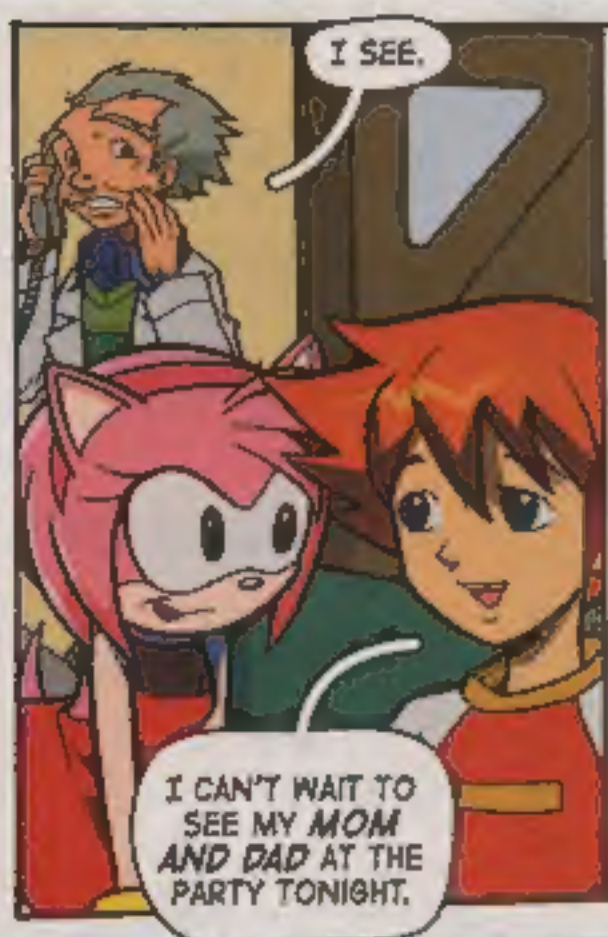
I'M GOING TO HANDLE THIS SITUATION *PERSONALLY.*

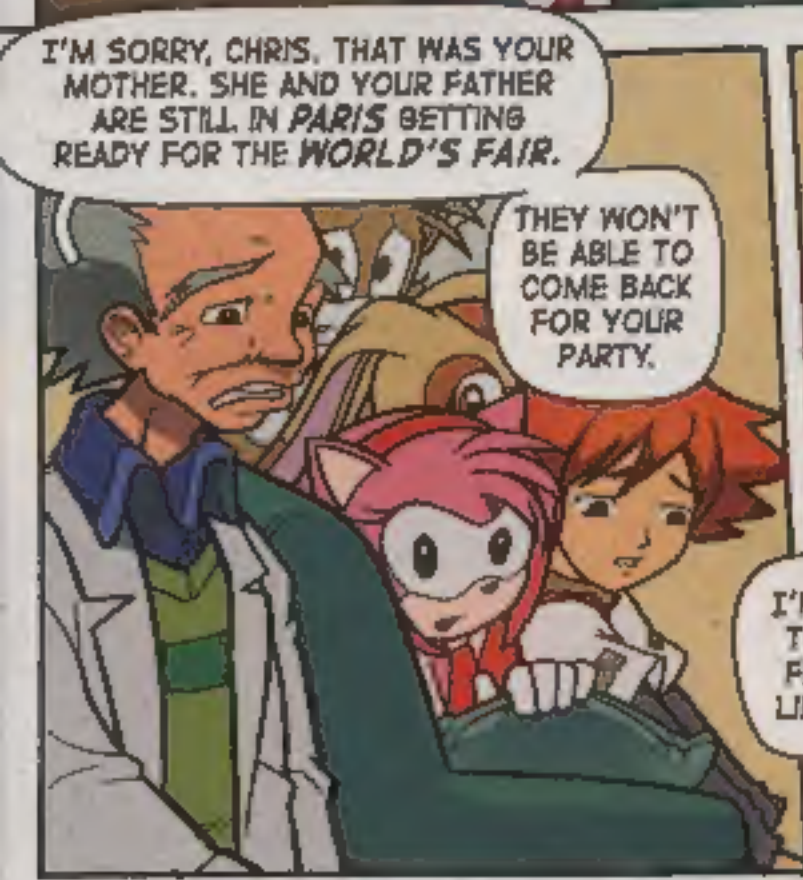
SIR, YES, SIR!

LATER THAT MORNING, AT THE SPRAWLING MANSION THAT IS HOME TO YOUNG *CHRISTOPHER THORNDYKE*...

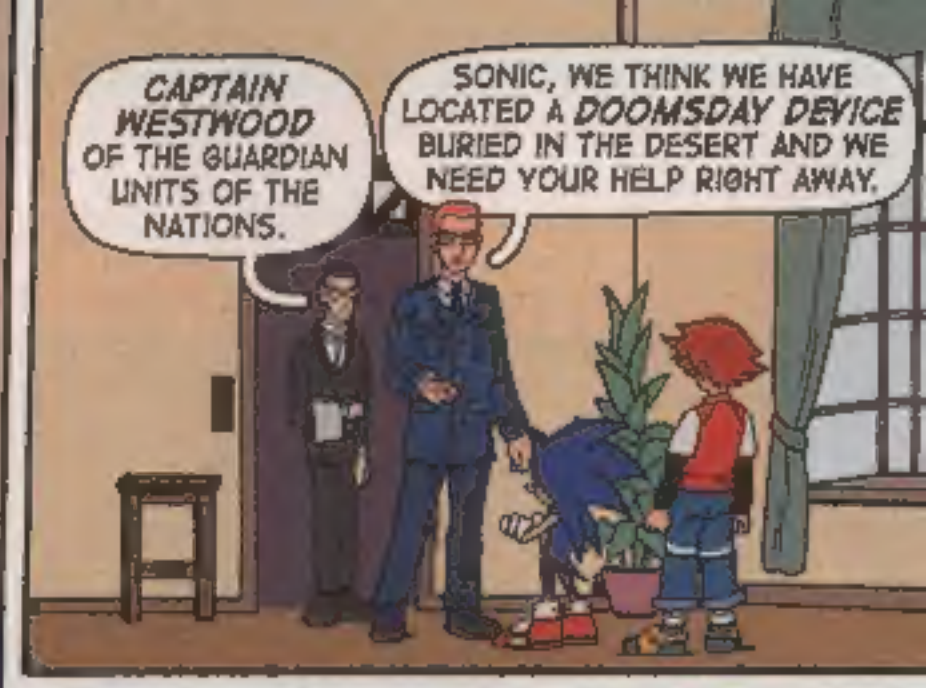
THIS WILL BE YOUR BEST BIRTHDAY PARTY EVER, MASTER CHRIS. JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE.

RING! RING! RING!





A THOUSAND PARDONS, MASTER CHRIS, BUT THERE IS SOMEONE HERE TO SEE MASTER SONIC.
ME?


CAPTAIN WESTWOOD OF THE GUARDIAN UNITS OF THE NATIONS.
SONIC, WE THINK WE HAVE LOCATED A DOOMSDAY DEVICE BURIED IN THE DESERT AND WE NEED YOUR HELP RIGHT AWAY.

I'M SORRY, CAPTAIN, BUT I HAVE SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT TO DO TODAY.
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT IT'S PART OF DR. EGGMAN'S LATEST SCHEME TO CONQUER THE PLANET.

SONIC, THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF ASKED ME TO ENLIST YOUR AID.

SONIC, YOU HAVE TO GO IF THE PRESIDENT ASKS.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR PARTY, BUDDY?
THERE WILL BE OTHER PARTIES.
YOU'VE GOTTA GO WITH THE CAPTAIN.

ELSEWHERE IN STATION SQUARE...

HI, WE'RE FROM THE *GOVERNMENT*. WE'RE HERE TO *HELP*.

YEAH. THOSE COVERALLS *DON'T FLATTER YOUR FIGURE* AT ALL.

IT'S KIND OF LIKE THE EQUIPMENT EGGMAN WOULD BUILD, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ODD ABOUT IT...

...LIKE THE TECHNOLOGY IS DECADES OLDER THAN WHAT HE WOULD USUALLY EMPLOY.

THIS LOOKS LIKE A COMPUTER. LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN FIND OUT.

...
MAYBE THEY CAN ACCESS THE MAINFRAME
...

click click click click click click

I CAN'T GET PAST THE PASSWORD.

ACCESS DENIED

click click click click click click click click click click click click

SOMEONE HAS BEEN IN HERE RECENTLY, AND HE HAS SMALLER FEET THAN YOU.

(WHICH ISN'T SAYING MUCH. MOST PEOPLE DO.)

HEY!

THESE ARE DEFINITELY FRESH PRINTS. THEY STARTED FROM INSIDE THIS POD...

...AND THEY LEAD OVER THERE.

...
CAN'T LET THEM FIND ME UNTIL I KNOW MORE
...

BE CAREFUL!

STILL TOO MUCH DATA NOT PROCESSED

ENGAGE SPEED SERVOS

WHOOOOOOSH!

NOTHING!

DID YOU FEEL A BREEZE?

WE'RE NOT ALONE IN HERE!

AGENTS TOPAZ AND ROUGE, RESPOND!

TOPAZ HERE

YOU ARE TO *RETURN TO GUARDIAN HEADQUARTERS IMMEDIATELY* BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT

THE PRESIDENT HAS AN *IMPORTANT MISSION* FOR YOU

THE *SEWER WILL BE SEALED OFF* UNTIL YOU CAN RETURN.

UNDERSTOOD, AGENT CHEUNG WE ARE ON OUR WAY BACK TO BASE NOW

...

ADDITIONAL DATA REQUIRED

...

MUST INTERFACE WITH THESE TWO BEINGS

...

MEANWHILE, CAPTAIN WESTWOOD AND SONIC ARRIVE AT THE COORDINATES OF THE UNIDENTIFIED BURIED OBJECT

WE PLACE THE ARTIFACT AT ABOUT *ONE HUNDRED FEET BELOW GROUND LEVEL.*

THANK YOU, AGENT DEVINE. YOU AND YOUR TEAM CAN LEAVE. SONIC AND I WILL TAKE IT FROM HERE

HERE, YOU'LL NEED *THIS.*

WHY DID YOU SEND THE OTHERS AWAY? THEY COULD HAVE HELPED

THE PRESIDENT ORDERED US TO CARRY OUT THE EXCAVATION IN *SECRET.*

BESIDES, WITH YOUR *STRENGTH* AND *SPEED,* THIS SHOULD TAKE YOU *NO TIME AT ALL,* RIGHT?

OR WERE THE PRESIDENT AND I *WRONG* ABOUT YOU?

NO PROBLEM. THIS WILL BE A PIECE OF CAKE

SO WHY DOES A *SMART, TALENTED, AND ENGLISH-SPEAKING* HEDGEHOG SPEND TIME WITH A *WHINY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KID?*

YOU MEAN *CHRIS?* HE'S A *GOOD KID.* HE GAVE ME AND MY FRIENDS A PLACE TO LIVE WHEN WE ARRIVED HERE.

HE GETS YOU INTO A LOT OF SCRAPES.

HE'S *YOUNG.* HE MAKES MISTAKES, BUT IN THE END, HE *ALWAYS COMES THROUGH.*

BESIDES, I *LIKE* SCRAPES THEY'RE *FUN*

YOUR *COUNTRY* NEEDS YOU. YOU SHOULD COME WORK FOR ME...

I MEAN *US*— THE PRESIDENT AND ME

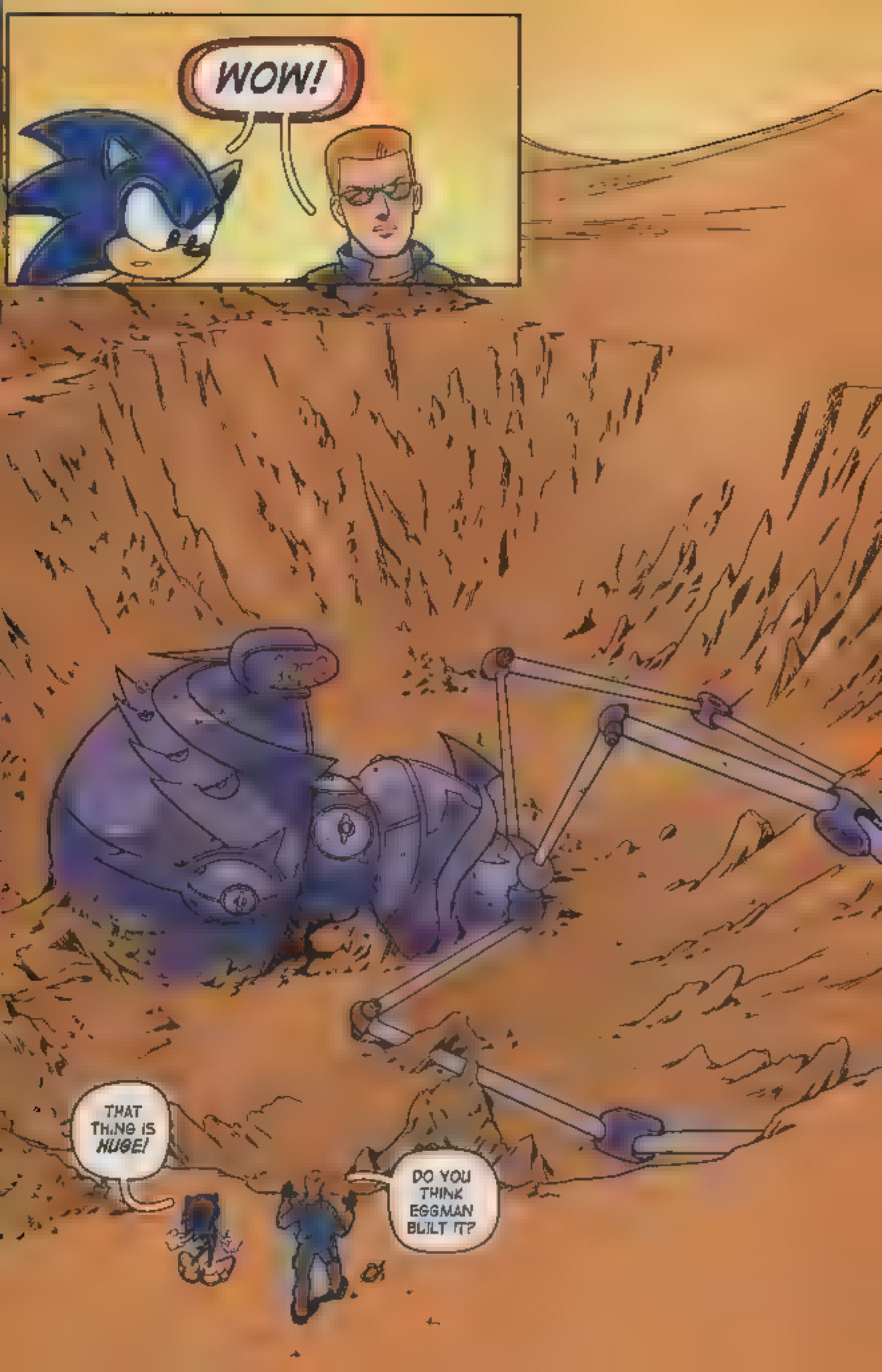
THIS *ISN'T* MY COUNTRY. *MY* COUNTRY IS ON ANOTHER WORLD.

BUT I DON'T MIND HELPING YOU OUT ONCE IN A WHILE

IN THE MEANTIME, I'M *NOT* GOING TO *ABANDON CHRIS* WITH HIS PARENTS ALWAYS AWAY WORKING

UMMMMMM, SONIC—

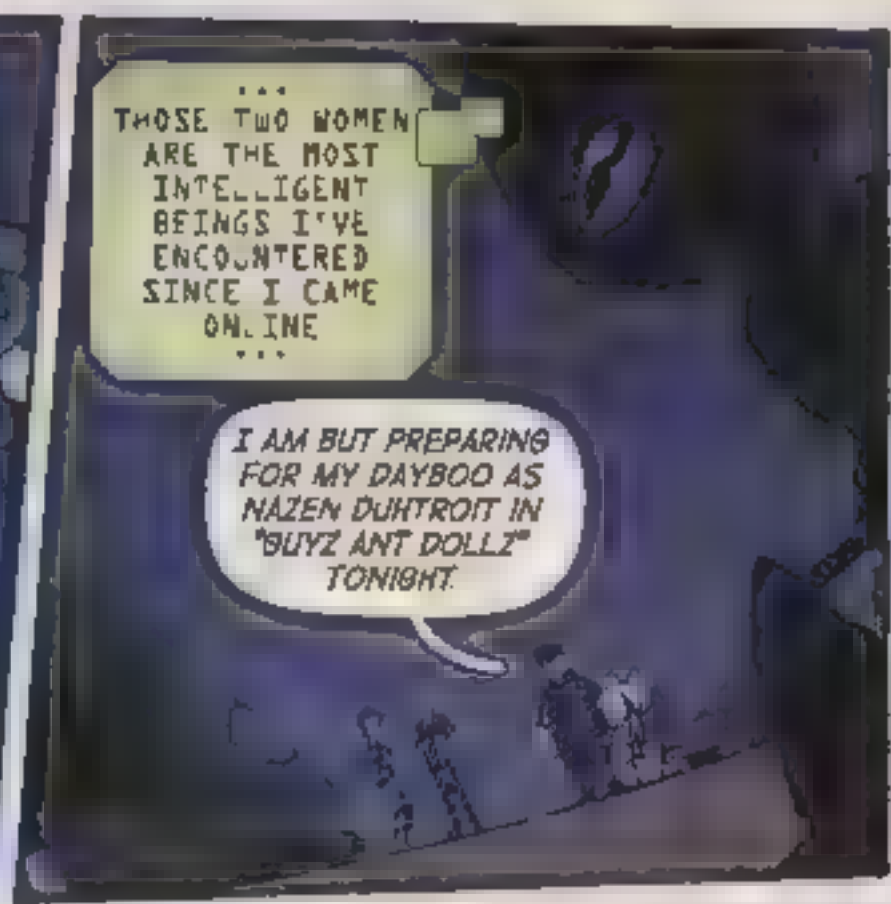
—I THINK YOU CAN *STOP DIGGING...*

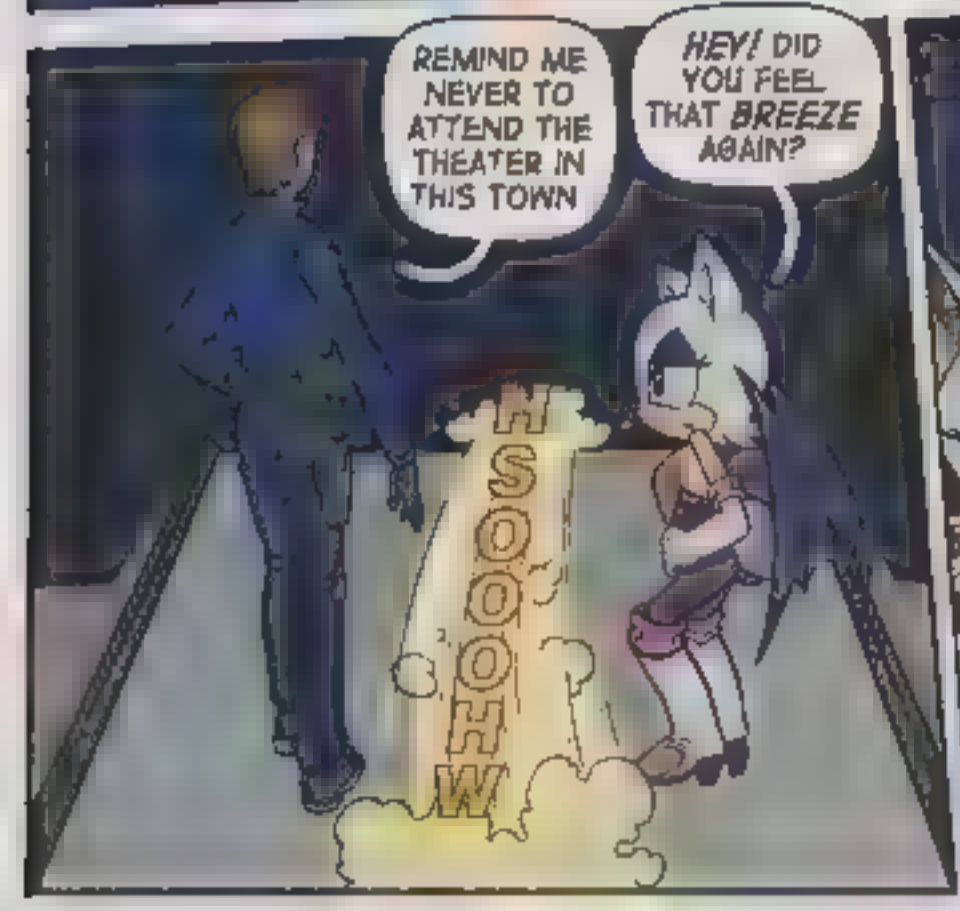

WOW!
THAT THING IS HUGE!
DO YOU THINK EGGMAN BUILT IT?

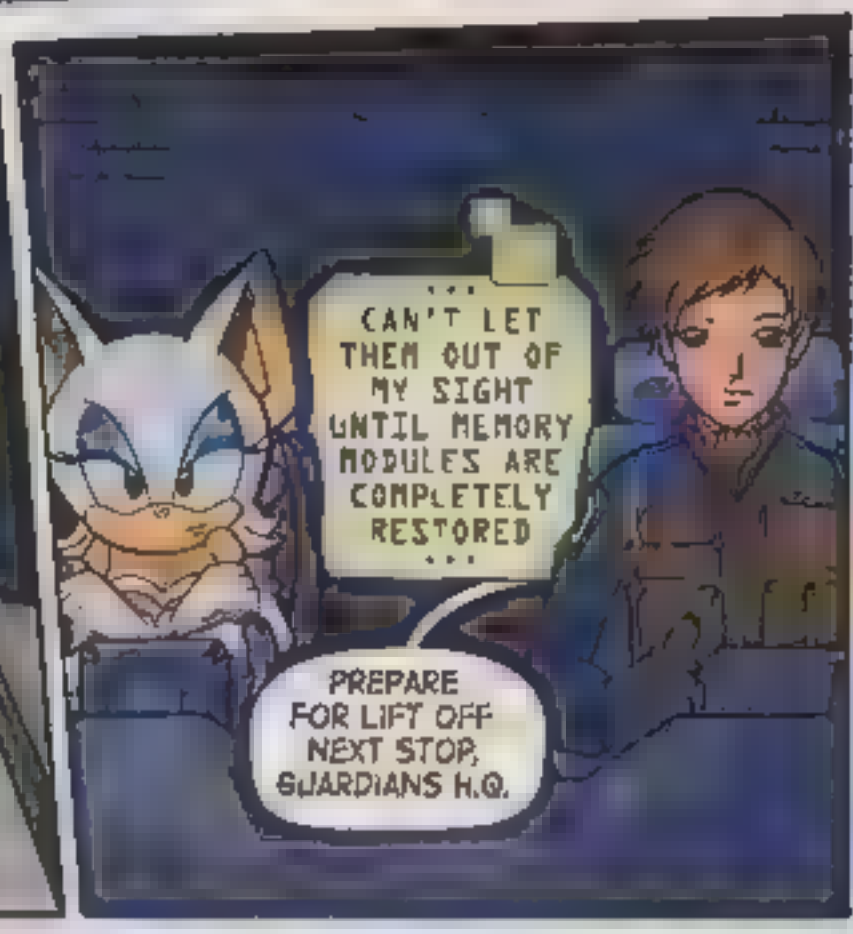
BACK IN STATION SQUARE, TOPAZ AND ROUGE PREPARE TO HEAD BACK TO GUARDIAN HEADQUARTERS

YOU HAVE TO MAKE SURE NO ONE GETS IN OR OUT OF THAT ROOM.

WEE, MADAM-WA-SELL ZE SEWAIR WEELL BE PROTECTED AT ALL TIMEZ







MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE DESERT
THAT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANYTHING EGGMAN EVER CAME UP WITH.
THAT MEANS IT COULD BE ALIEN IN ORIGIN!
WHAT WE'VE FOUND COULD PUT ME ON THE MAP!
I DON'T THINK IT WANTED TO BE FOUND!
JUMP!
BOOM!

PPPUUUMMMMBBBLLEEE

THUD!

THUD!

THWOOMP

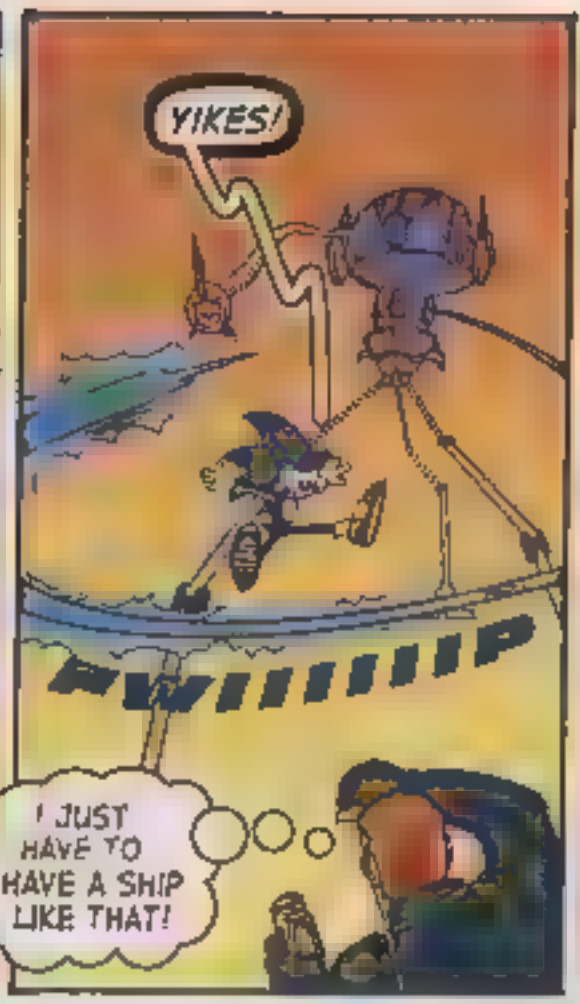
THWOOMP

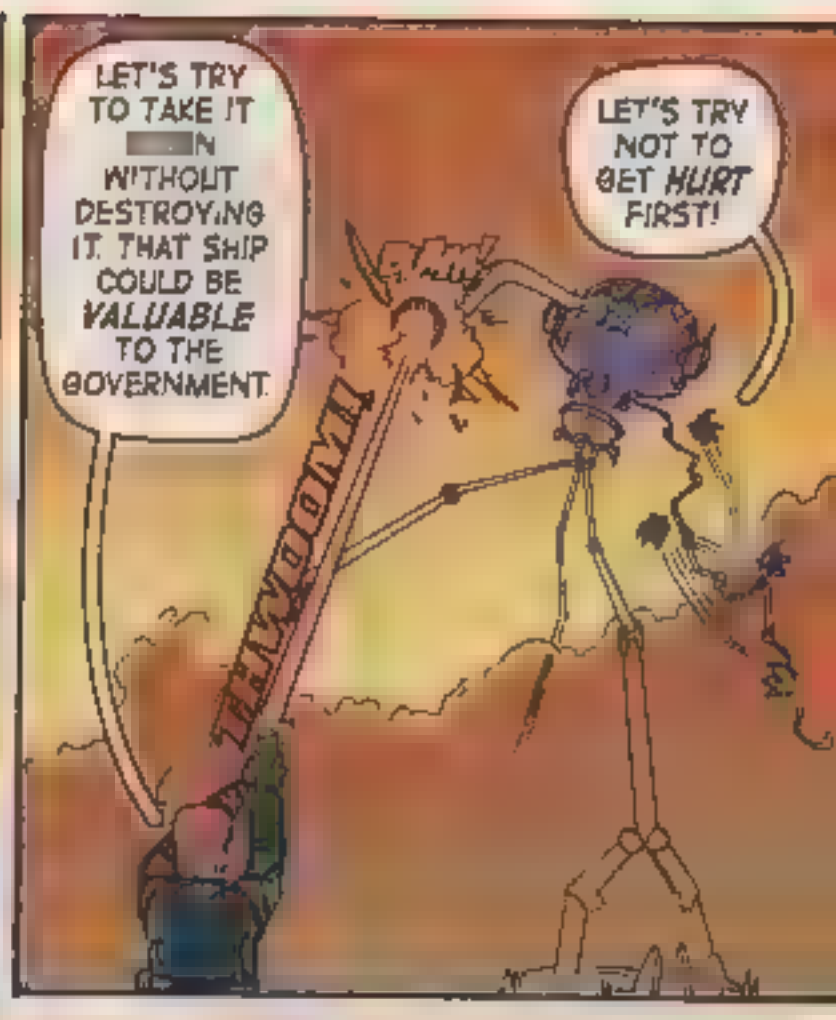
YO, CAPTAIN! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE FIRING THAT THING!

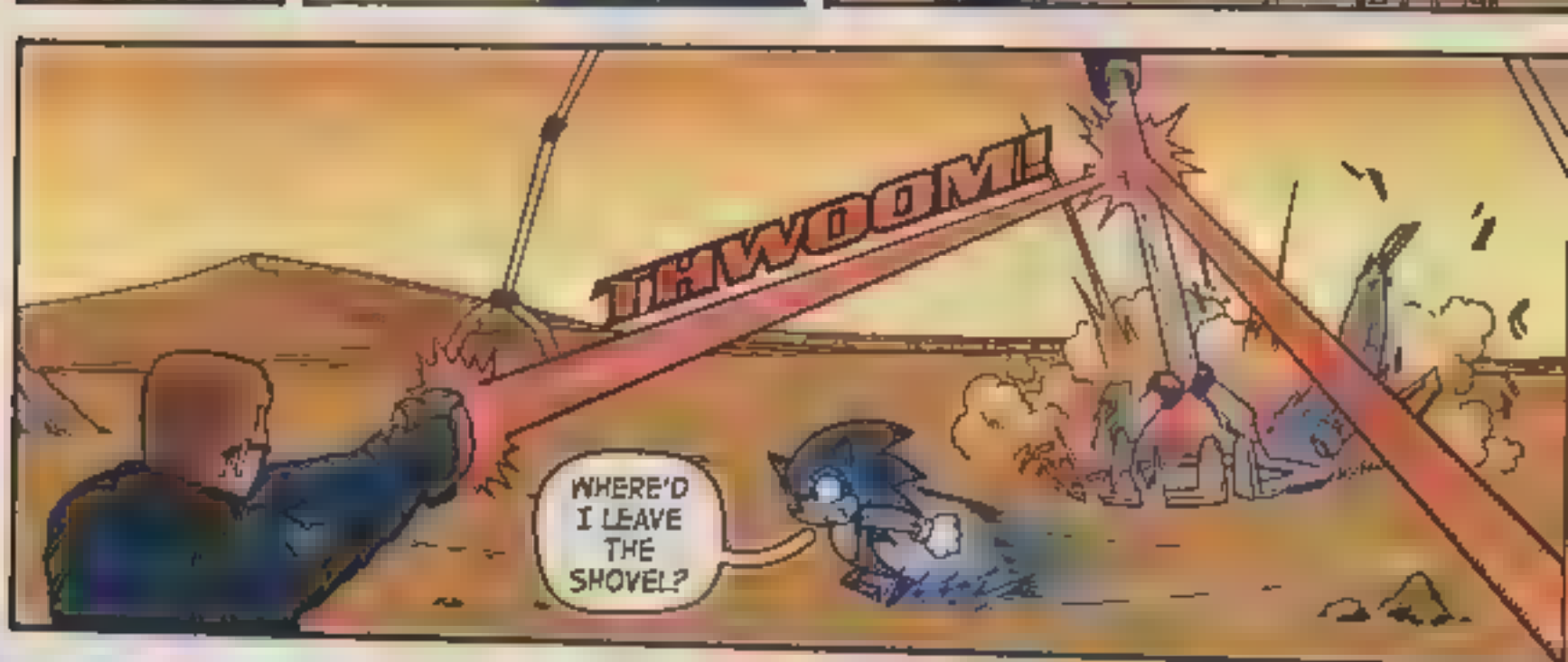
KRAK!

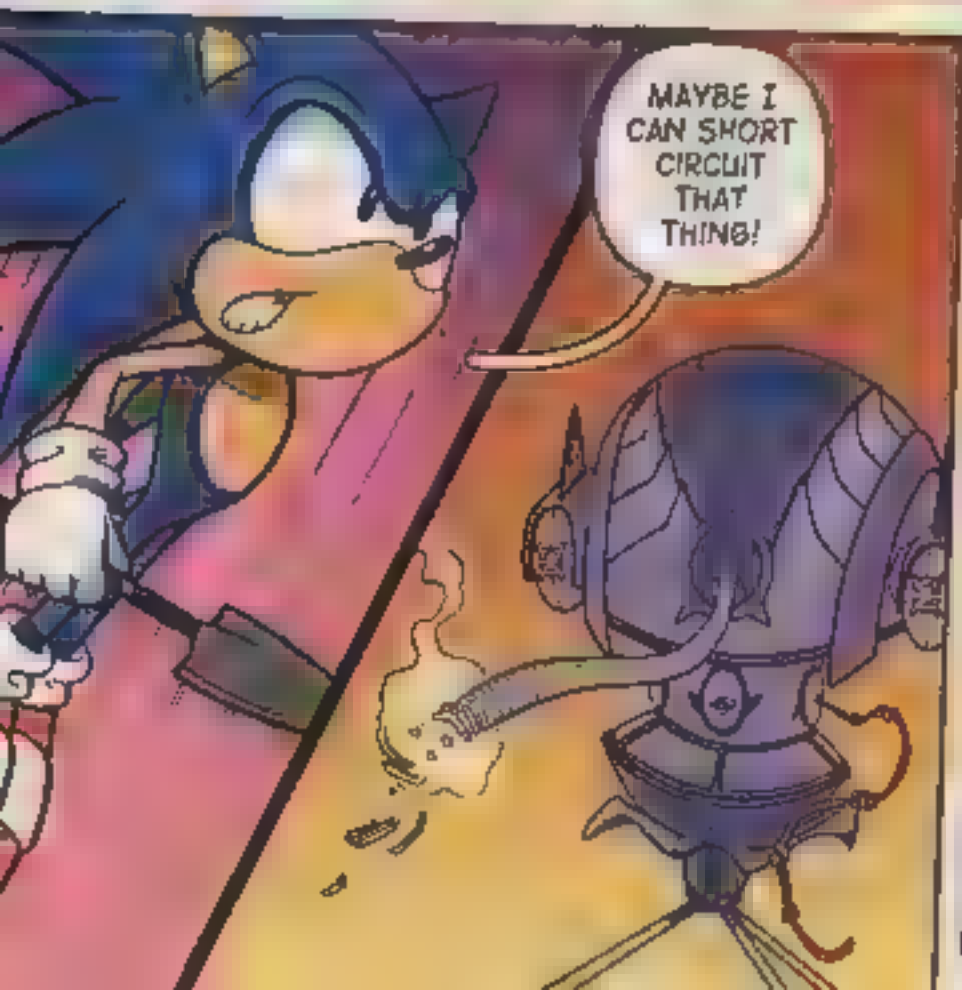
HELLO! IS THERE ANYBODY IN THERE?

MAN, WHAT I'D GIVE TO HAVE A SHIP LIKE THAT!

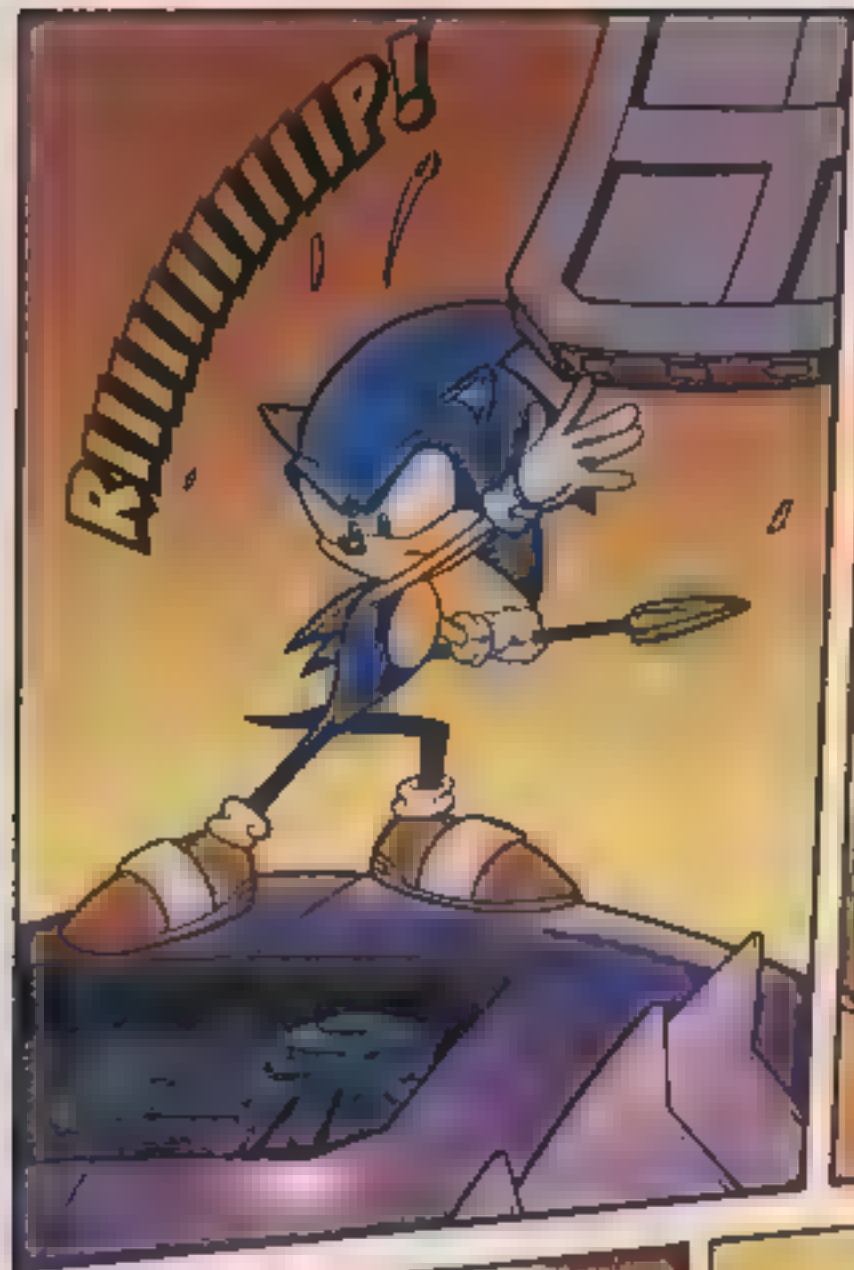

YIKES!
I JUST HAVE TO HAVE A SHIP LIKE THAT!

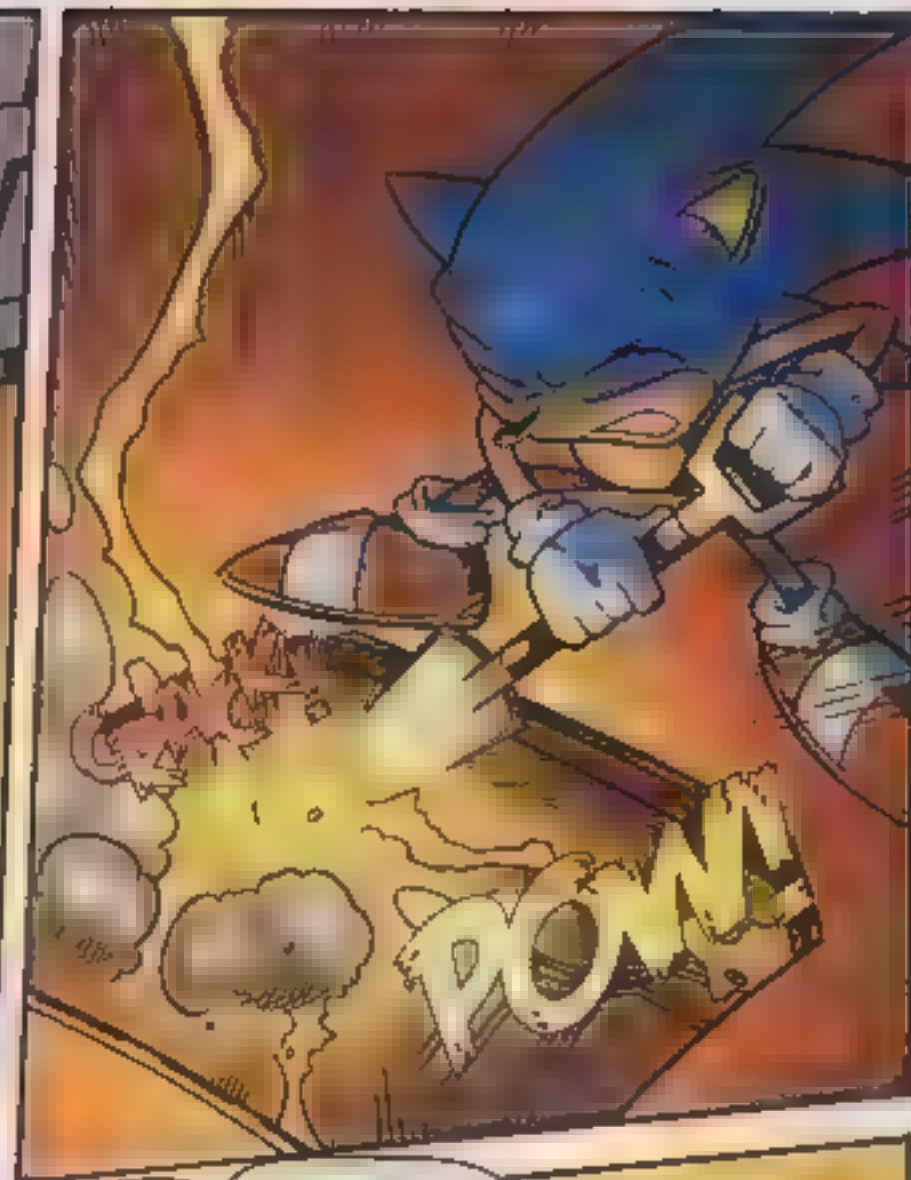

LET'S TRY TO TAKE IT IN WITHOUT DESTROYING IT. THAT SHIP COULD BE VALUABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT.
LET'S TRY NOT TO GET HURT FIRST!
THWOOM!

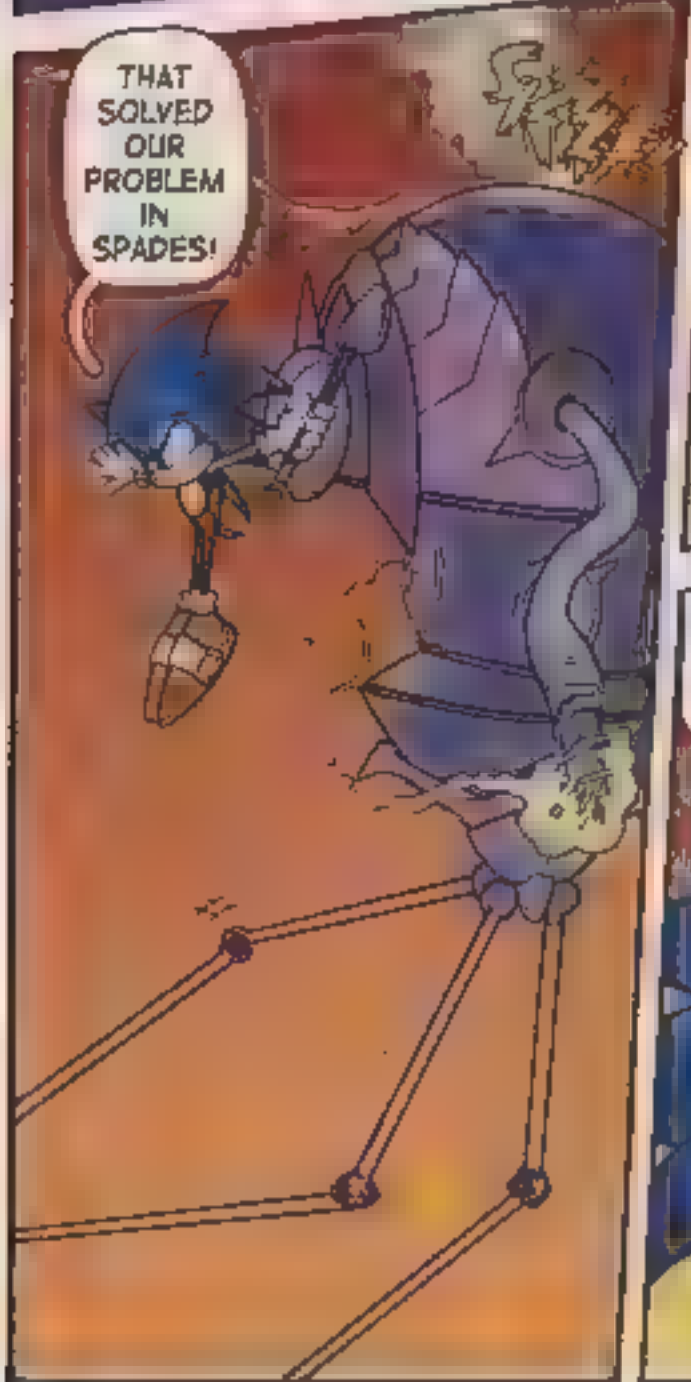

THWOOM!
WHERE'D I LEAVE THE SHOVEL?


MAYBE I CAN SHORT CIRCUIT THAT THING!

HEADS UP, CREEP!
WHUNK!


RIIIIIIIIIIIIP!


POW!


THAT SOLVED OUR PROBLEM IN SPADES!

GREAT WORK, SONIC!
YOU DISABLED THE CRAFT WITH A MINIMUM OF DAMAGE
KRAKOOOOOOOM
I'LL HAVE A SALVAGE TEAM RECOVER THE SHIP FROM THE HOLE AND TAKE IT TO AREA 99 FOR STUDY
I DON'T KNOW... IT SEEMS PRETTY DANGEROUS TO ME
NONSENSE IT'S GOING TO BE A GREAT ASSET TO THE GOVERNMENT AND WE'LL BE CONSIDERED HEROES.

YOU REALLY SHOULD JOIN G.U.N. AND WORK *FOR ME*.

I'M SURE THE PRESIDENT WILL MAKE YOU AN OFFICER WHEN I TELL HIM THAT *I HAD THE IDEA TO BRING YOU HERE*.

DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT *THE PRESIDENT* ASKED FOR ME TO HELP WITH THIS MISSION?

I... UH...

YOU THINK IT'S STRANGE THAT I HANG AROUND WITH CHRIS THORNDYKE BECAUSE HE'S *JUST A KID*...

...AT LEAST *HE'D NEVER LIE TO ME* THE WAY *YOU* DID.

CAN'T WE TALK ABOUT THIS?

I WOULD *NEVER* WORK WITH SOMEONE I *CAN'T TRUST*.

DO I REALLY NEED TO TELL YOU WHAT YOU CAN *DO* WITH YOUR JOB OFFER?

HOW AM I GOING TO GET BACK TO WASHINGTON?

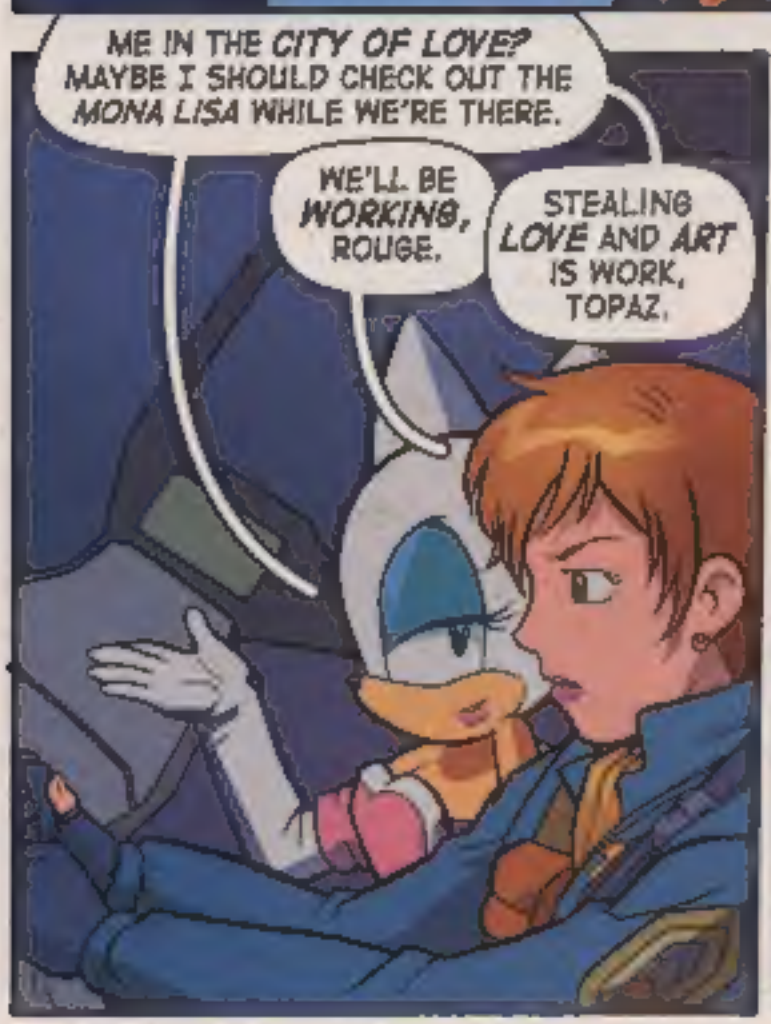
YOU COULD TRY CALLING A FRIEND, BUT I BET YOU DON'T HAVE ANY.

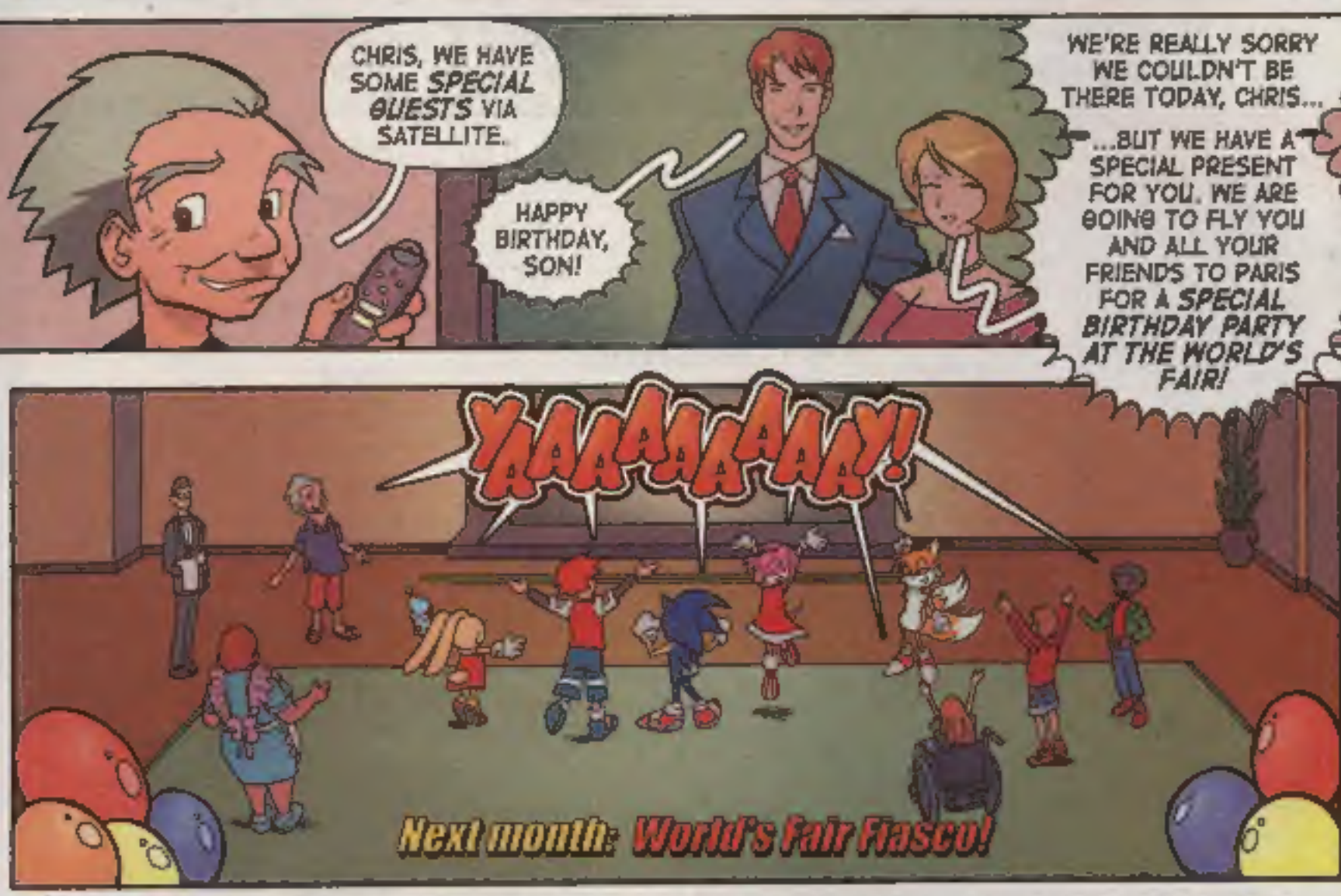
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE A *PARTY* TO GET TO!

MEANWHILE, AT A LANDING STRIP OUTSIDE OF WASHINGTON, DC...

THANK YOU FOR RETURNING SO PROMPTLY, AGENTS TOPAZ AND ROUGE.

I HAD AN ASSIGNMENT FOR YOUR CAPTAIN, BUT HE CAN NOT BE FOUND, AND THIS WON'T WAIT.





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